

# LITTLE COLORADO RIVER WATERSHED

Statewide Water Resources Advisory Group

June 16, 2006

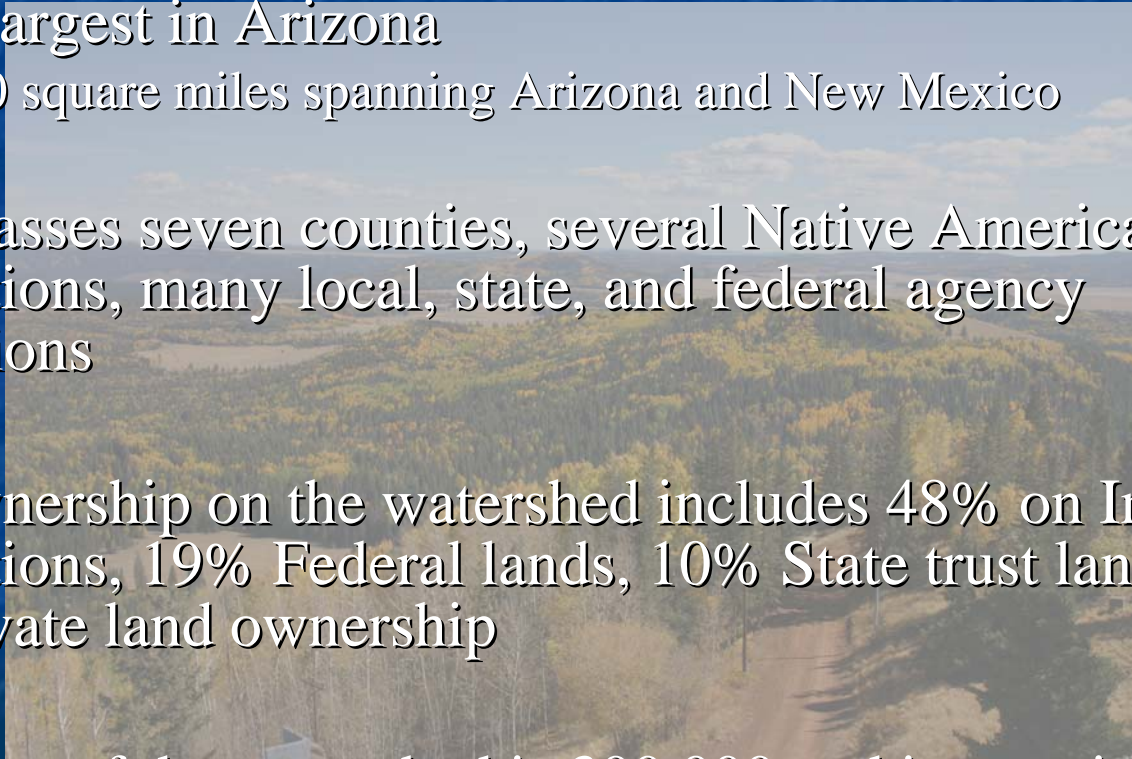
Michael Brown

Kay Dyson



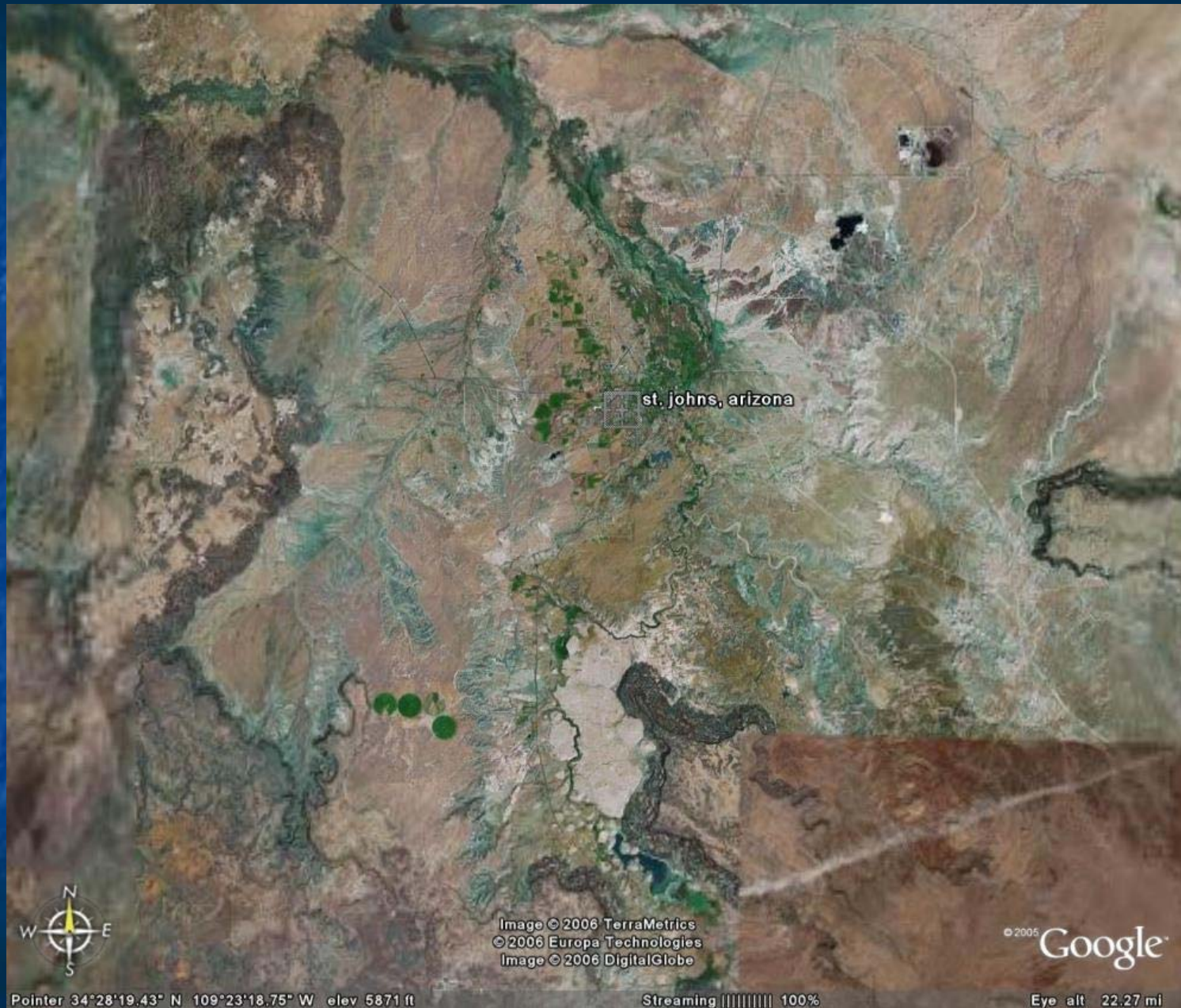
# Little Colorado River Watershed Characteristics

- Second largest in Arizona
  - 27,000 square miles spanning Arizona and New Mexico
- Encompasses seven counties, several Native American Indian Reservations, many local, state, and federal agency jurisdictions
- Land ownership on the watershed includes 48% on Indian Reservations, 19% Federal lands, 10% State trust lands and 23% private land ownership
- Population of the watershed is 300,000 and is growing fast!





# Little Colorado Watershed





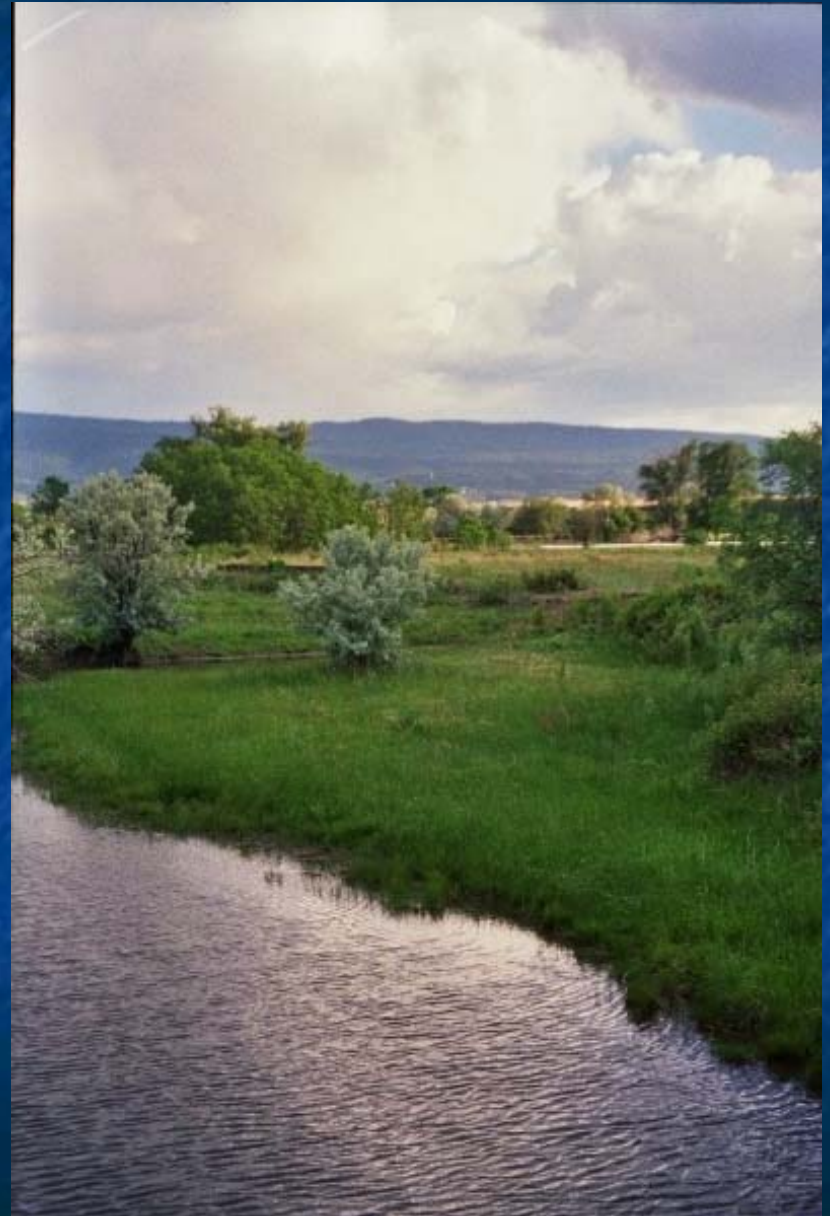
# Little Colorado Watershed





# What are the water resource problems in your area?

- Water Quality – mercury, radium, arsenic, turbidity
- Lack of citizen recognition of water resource issues
- Lack of scientific data
- Infrastructure – high costs
- Uncertainty created by ongoing water adjudication





- **Water Quantity - decline**





# • Health of Watershed



Pretreatment



Treatment  
Complete





- Issues related to threatened and endangered species



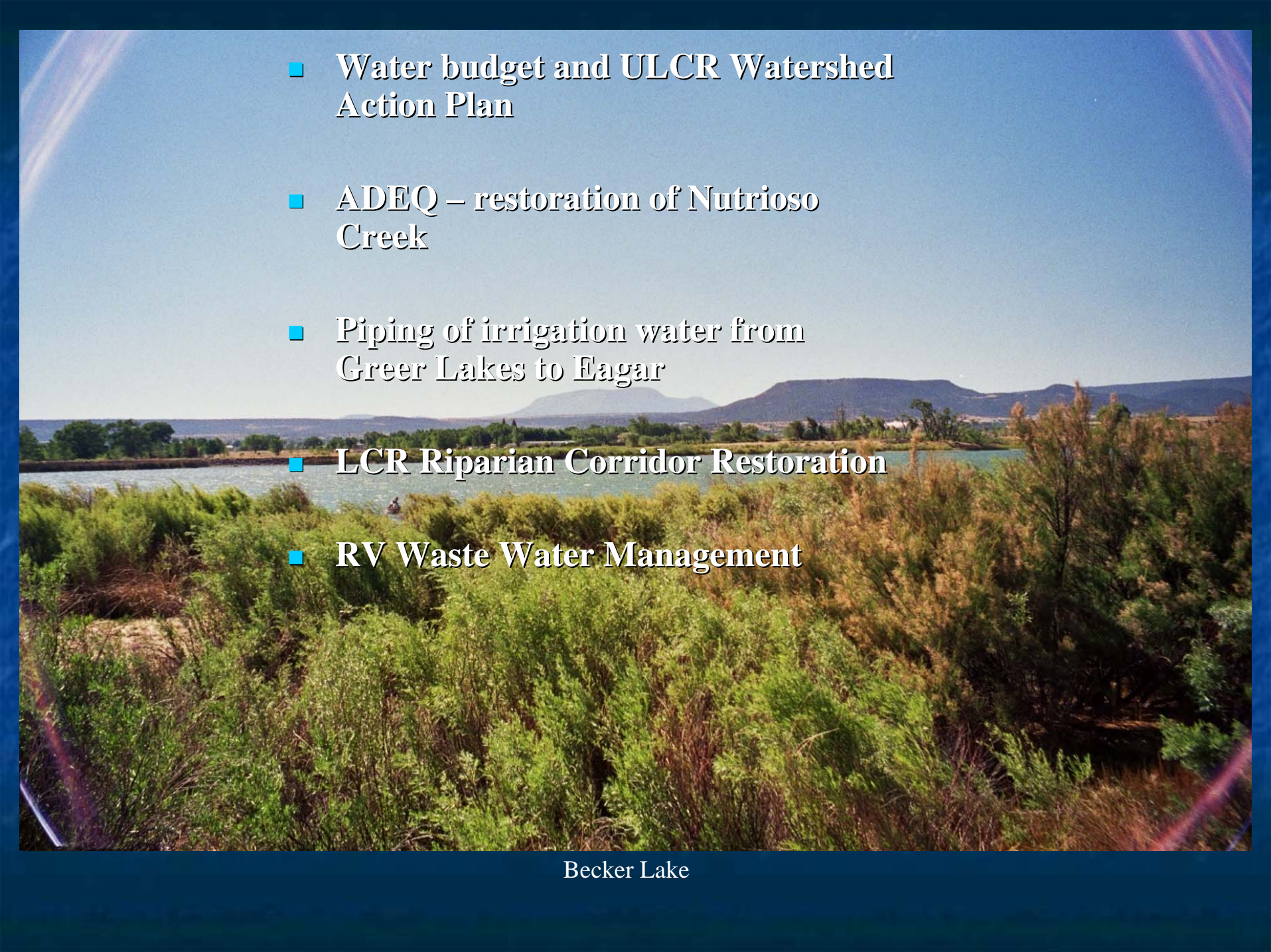


# What actions have been taken by governments, districts and water providers to address regional issues?



- Adjudication coordination efforts
- Little Colorado River RC & D
- Little Colorado River Watershed Coordinating Council (LCRWCC)
- Upper Little Colorado River Watershed Partnership (ULCR)
- Show Low Creek Enhancement Partnership



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- Water budget and ULCR Watershed Action Plan
  - ADEQ – restoration of Nutrioso Creek
  - Piping of irrigation water from Greer Lakes to Eagar
  - LCR Riparian Corridor Restoration
  - RV Waste Water Management

Becker Lake



# • Zuni Wetlands Project

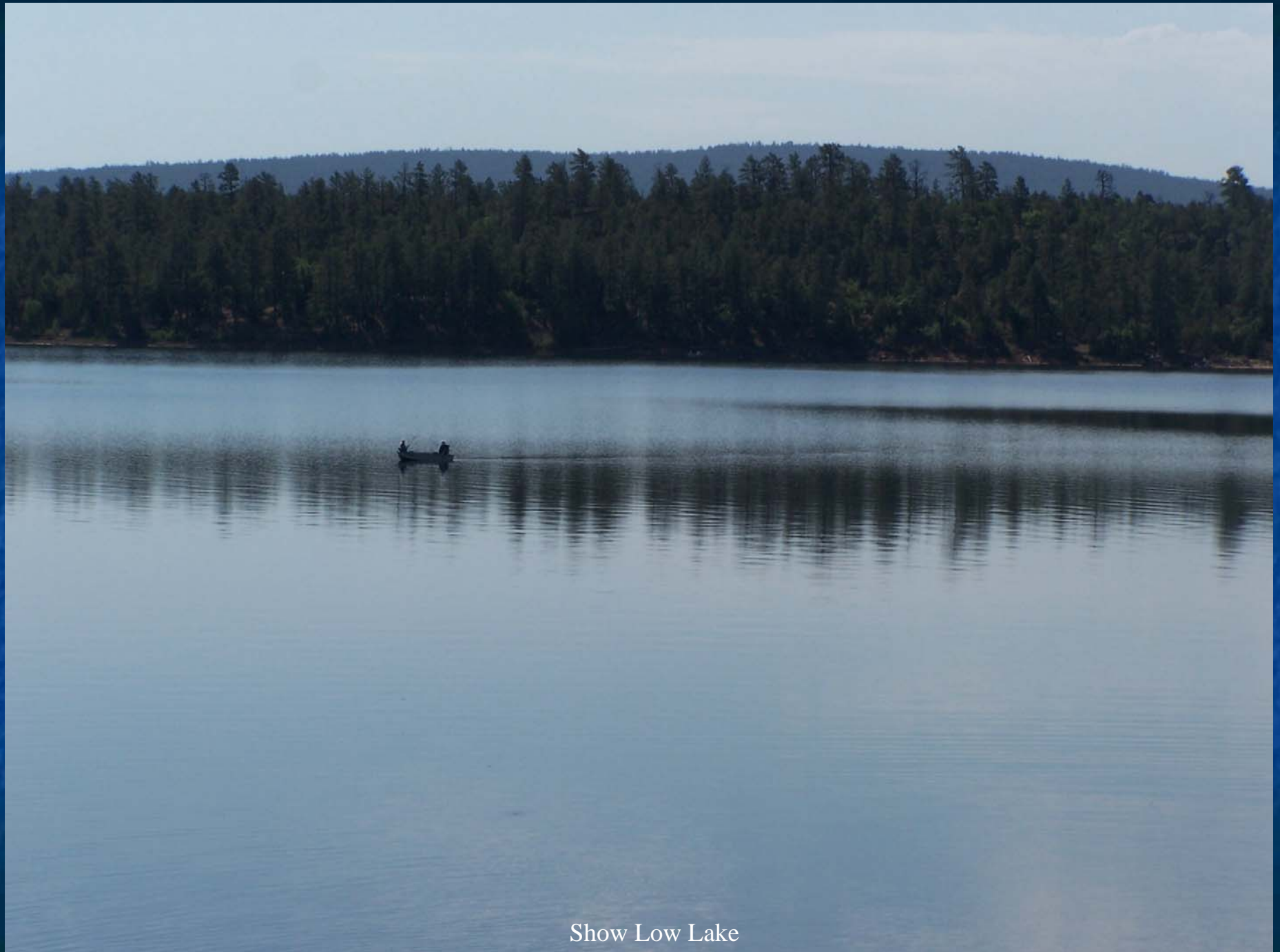




- Show Low Lake Management







Show Low Lake



# What obstacles or barriers block the local and county governments, districts and water providers from addressing regional water issues?

- Water adjudication – Federal / State claims
- 80% of lands of LCRW owned by governmental or tribal entities
- Lack of funds
- Lack of technical / professional resources
- Competition for water resources among water users





- Growth / development threatens supply



Well drilling



New home construction

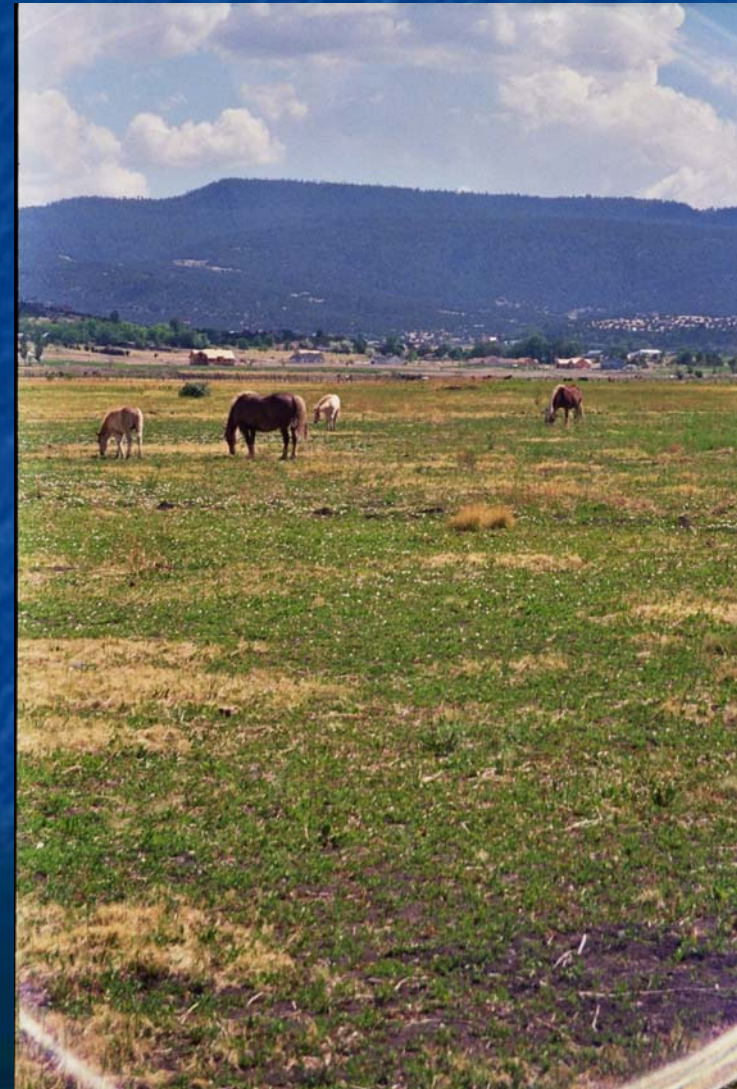


# What do the water users want from local water providers?



- Citizens –  
low rates, good quality,  
dependable supply

- Agriculture –  
pasture land for grazing  
and crops





## ■ Tourism



Round Valley 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade



ATV Outlaw Jamboree

## ■ Recreation



## ■ Industry





## ■ Environmental



Little Colorado River



Becker Lake



- **Safety** – water for fire suppression





# What do water providers need to meet the needs of the public?

- Regional design for watershed management
- Fair rate structure
- Conservation
- Education on alternatives – Stewardship of water resources
- Improvements to water supply:
  - Cloud Seeding





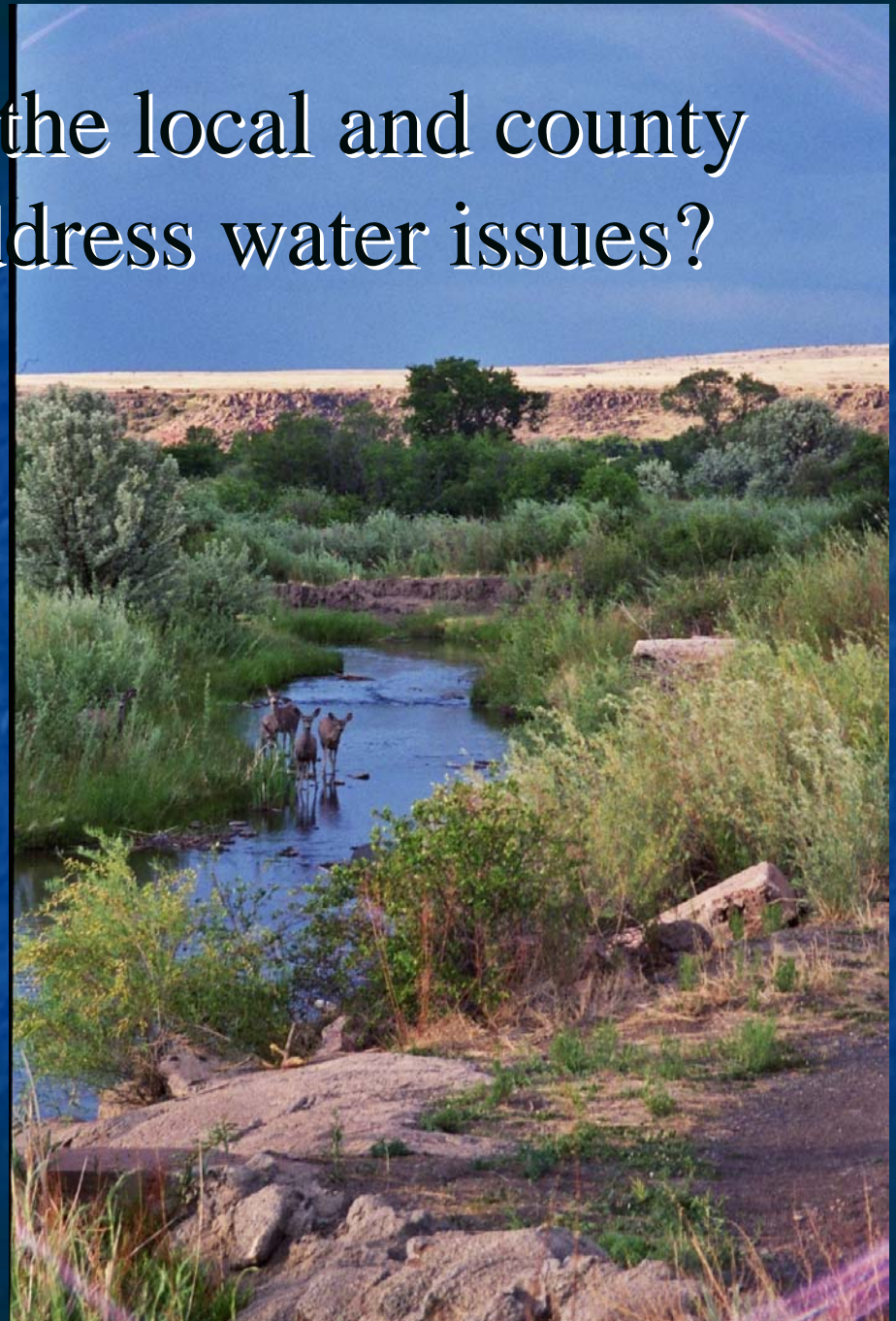
- Storage
- Reuse reclaimed water
- Piping irrigation ditches
- Grey water reuse





# What is needed by the local and county governments to address water issues?

- Funding for projects
- Public education assistance
- Shared knowledge of best practices
- Increased authority for counties to impose impact fees
- Increased authority to regulate lot splits
- Funding for ADWR adjudication support
- Additional stewardship contracts







## White Mountain Stewardship Project

- 10 year contract to treat 150,000 acres in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests
- Purpose of contract:
  - Forest health
  - Fire safe communities
- Collaboration Works – Multi party monitoring board
- Economic development of wood fiber industries





# Thank You!!!!!!!

From the communities of the  
Little Colorado River  
Watershed

